

SENATE RESOLUTION 107
By McNally

A RESOLUTION to direct the Select Oversight Committee on Education to study the governance structure of higher education in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the states today are effective and decisive voices in the determination of educational policies and procedures that consume a major portion of state budgets and shape the minds of our sons and daughters; and

WHEREAS, while adequately funding programs and facilities is a priority, states must also achieve accountability by reviewing those organizations that have direct oversight and govern our higher education institutions; and

WHEREAS, in Tennessee, several boards, a commission, and an assistance corporation work with the General Assembly to promulgate rules and administer the State's system of higher education; and

WHEREAS, governance of public higher education in our State is the responsibility of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, the State Board of Regents, and the University of Tennessee system; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation is authorized to administer state funding to provide financial assistance to Tennessee students seeking a post-secondary education; and

WHEREAS, another entity, the Select Oversight Committee on Education, was created by the Comprehensive Education Reform Act of 1984 to monitor the progress and effectiveness of various educational programs and reforms implemented by the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that, at the request of this Assembly, this committee should examine the entire structure governing our ever-important public higher education system; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that the Select Oversight Committee on Education is hereby directed to study the governing structure of public higher education in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this committee shall study the structure and function of all boards associated with the University of Tennessee, the Tennessee Board of Regents, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, and the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this committee shall timely report its findings to the House and Senate Education Committees and the House and Senate Government Operations Committees by February 1, 2004.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be sent to the chair(s) of the Select Oversight Committee on Education.